

In a volume covering so wide a field it is unavoidable that there will be topics which are not up to the general standard of the work. In this journal it may be permitted to point out that the discussion on the basis of variation and the origin of species (pp. 7-9) is sadly lacking in precision and clarity. It betrays a comparative unfamiliarity with the concepts of modern genetics which is probably also responsible for Professor Young's low opinion of the contribution of genetics to biological thought (p. 7, and elsewhere). However, this is rather a detail in an otherwise excellent book, though it is to be hoped that this section may be revised in the second edition.

F. R. SIMPSON.

CHILD HEALTH

Pratt, Charles A. *Your Children's Feet*. London, 1951. C. A. Watts & Co. Ltd. Pp. 52. Price 7s. 6d.

THE author's inquiries show that the feet of four out of five of our children are deformed. How strongly he feels about this the reader will be in no doubt after reading this volume.

What is the message this book gives? It is that the commonest deformity is *Hallux Valgus* and that the cause is ill-fitting footwear—shoes that do not have a straight inner side—shoes that crowd the toes and force the hallux outwards. Almost the whole book is devoted to this point.

The observations are limited to the feet of children between thirteen and fifteen. This lessens enormously the scope of the book. Many parents seeking guidance here will be disappointed: they will find nothing about the congenital deformities of the feet, such as club foot in its various forms, in-twisted forefoot, everted ankles and the so commonly associated knock-knee deformity, overlapping toes not due to crowding, etc.

It may be said that only a work on orthopaedic surgery should deal with such conditions, but with a title as broad as *Your Children's Feet* many a mother may buy this

book hoping for information on her own child's deformity. Even so, the author's enthusiasm makes up for the limited scope of the work, and if better shoes are made because of his labours he will be well rewarded.

P. J. BLAXLAND.

EDUCATION

Wolfenden, J. F. *The Public Schools Today*. London, 1949. University of London Press. Pp. 111. Price 4s. 6d.

Clarke, Sir Fred. *Freedom in the Educative Society*. London, 1948. University of London Press. Pp. 104. Price 4s. 6d.

THERE is a mass of printed matter about contemporary education in England, but the ethic of English education still lacks its Aquinas, and the historical background of English education urgently needs its Acton. When the Royal Commission on Population, in its fourteenth chapter, was producing its uncomfortable reflections upon the lamentable influence of educational costs upon the family spacing of the more responsible and intelligent parents, its argument fell below the generally authoritative level of the Report, from sheer lack of systematically assembled evidence and accessible statistics. A respectable survey of educational provision in England, that is to say, a review of the whole process by which the younger generation and immature adults are inducted into the English social heritage, is long overdue. A very fair impression of the present stage of sociological enquiry can be gathered from the studies of heredity and environment, social hierarchies and the training of élites for leadership, published as a Year Book by the London Institute of Education (Evans Bros. Ltd., 63s.). There Dr. M. Hans gives a fascinating analysis of the educational provenance of some 2,500 leading men and women in the liberal professions. It is in such a way that observation